

# SUGAR and PLANTATION NEWS

## RECENT STORM HAS OCCASIONED LOSS TO SUGAR GROWERS

Heavy Rains and High Winds Have Been Reported From Nearly All Sections

### BIG ISLAND ONCE MORE HAS SUFFERED MOST

Wailuku Escapes Flood But Island of Maui Has Been Fairly Deluged With Rain

Heavy rains and high winds have occasioned some damage to the growing crops of all the islands during the past ten days. How extensive and serious that damage has been cannot be determined until mail arrives. It is evident, however, from the wireless messages that have been received from the outside islands that the damage has been considerable in some sections, especially so on the island of Hawaii.

On Hawaii, several bridges are reported to have been destroyed and it is certain a number of plantations have suffered severely. Unfortunately, the drought districts of last year have been hit hard by this damage, among these being Honokaa and Pacific Mill and other Hamakua plantations. Kau has also been hit but there has been no definite advice as to damage there as yet. Hilo and North Hilo have suffered from the rains, as well.

### Storm On Maui

On Maui the rains were severe. Charles T. Bailey, territorial hydrographer, who has just returned from a ten day field trip to Maui, says the island has been deluged with rains.

At Keonape the average daily rain for last week was 5.98 inches, while at Wailuku a total of 18 inches of rain fell in 24 hours, and 29 inches fell in two days.

On Wednesday a great storm swept the mountains above Iao Valley and probably only the fact that the river channel was cleared out by the previous storm prevented a repetition of the disaster of 1916. Bridges are now larger over the stream, and there are fewer obstructions along its course. As large an amount of water passed down the valley during the period as in the other storm, says the hydrographer.

In the drought districts the soil was in such condition that heavy rains were certain to wash out badly. This has been the case, the meager reports thus far received indicate.

### Much Cane Lodged

On this island as well as the others the high wind has done some damage and has "lodged" a considerable quantity of cane. This will add to the cost of cutting. Reports from Wailuku indicate that some of the cane there was buried in mud.

Cane that was growing was badly whipped by the wind and much foliage torn off. With cane, as with other vegetation, this must have an effect on the growth.

For the past two years weather conditions have been abnormal in various parts of the islands, drought succeeding deluges and downpours following drought. Wailuku has been one of the sufferers in this.

Certainly the recent storm has done a damage to the crops that will mount into the tens of thousands of dollars.

In the weekly report of the weather bureau it is said that up to the sixth such heavy rains had fallen on Maui and parts of Hawaii that in some fields work had to be suspended. This loss of time is, however, the least important of the losses for sugar is piling up faster than it can be shipped and the storehouse capacity is not too extensive.

## INHERITANCE TAX ON MATSON ESTATE IS AT LEAST \$188,000

SAN FRANCISCO, April 1.—An inheritance tax of \$188,000 must be paid by the estate of Captain William Matson, whether or not the State Inheritance Tax Department allows a tax exemption of \$212,000, claimed on the ground that the portion of the estate of \$3,260,000 left to the widow, Mrs. Lillie B. Matson, was community property.

William A. Sullivan, attorney for the department, yesterday announced that the portion of the estate which attorneys for the estate admit to be taxable has been assessed at a figure which will bring \$188,000 to the State. Sullivan said he expects that portion of the tax to be paid before April 12 in order to win the rebate of 5 percent, allowed if the tax is paid within six months after death.

### BARGES FOR SUGAR

Snake River in Utah will see barges for sugar beets this summer to assist in transportation. This will be like in Holland where a large percentage of the beets are always hauled this way.

## NEW YORK MARKET STILL IMPROVING

Deliveries For March About As Expected But Shipping Has Another Set-Back

NEW YORK CITY, March 22.—Sales arranged for the week by the International Sugar Committee were light, as was to be expected from the fact that practically all of the purchases of Cubas which the committee planned to arrange for March have now been made, reports Facts About Sugar.

The total purchases of Cubas for March, including the sales of approximately 16,000 long tons recorded this week, are now in excess of \$25,000 tons. It is not likely that there will be any considerable addition to this figure for the remainder of the month, as shipping conditions will not permit the movement of a larger amount than has already been arranged for. In fact, it is now doubtful if even the 225,600 tons sold for March shipment can be moved this month, and some of this tonnage will probably not be moved until April.

In addition to the purchases of Cubas reported, sales were made of 21,000 bags of Porto Rico and a lot of 1,000 bags of Venezuela coffee, the latter being allocated to the account of Canadian refiners. For the reason pointed out above it seems probable at this writing that only a few sales for March shipment will be made during the balance of the month and that the committee will confine its activities during the coming week largely to arranging purchases for April shipment. A beginning in purchasing sugars in this position was made on Tuesday of this week, as part of the 6000 tons of Cubas allotted to New Orleans refiners is to come forward in April.

### Shipping Has Set Back

The shipping situation, which showed some improvement last week in so far as actual deliveries were concerned, has now received a setback which makes it practically impossible for the total March movement to reach earlier expectations. This development is viewed in full on another page of this issue. The trade is closely watching shipping conditions and, while naturally disappointed as to the results that will be achieved in the March movement of Cubas, is of the opinion that the prospects are bright for an improvement in April that will offset the March deficiency.

Cuban cables for the week contained nothing indicating any unfavorable developments affecting the progress of the harvest. Production is apparently going forward at a record rate and general conditions throughout the island as to weather conditions, the yield, and the labor situation are reported to be highly favorable. Some reports have been circulated suggesting the possibility that the Cuban crop may fall short of expectations, based on current estimates, but the advice received by the trade contains nothing that justifies any such speculation as to a decrease.

### Refined Market Better

As a result of the freer arrival of raw supplies meltings for the week by Eastern refiners continue to show steady improvement over the weekly averages recorded since the beginning of the year. For the week ending March 16 statistics show meltings of 53,305 ordinary tons and stocks on hand of approximately 31,807 tons. This figure for meltings brings the total since January 1 up to 280,000 tons for Eastern refiners and compares not unfavorably with the 1917 record, which was somewhat in excess of this year's output.

Taking the country as a whole, reports received from the principal distributing centers indicate that refined supplies throughout the country are steadily growing in volume and that at all points where the stringency has been most acute considerable relief has been afforded through the increased distribution of both cane and beet sugar.

### PILE DRIVER IS BLOWN OVER BY HIGH WINDS

As a result of the terrific pounding of the wind which blew over the city the past few days, the eighty-foot pile driver on Quarantine Island, next to the Inter-Island company's coal conveyor, fell to the ground Tuesday night, thus missing tearing down the transformer wires which run to the coal conveyor, thus saving the conveyor from being temporarily out of commission.

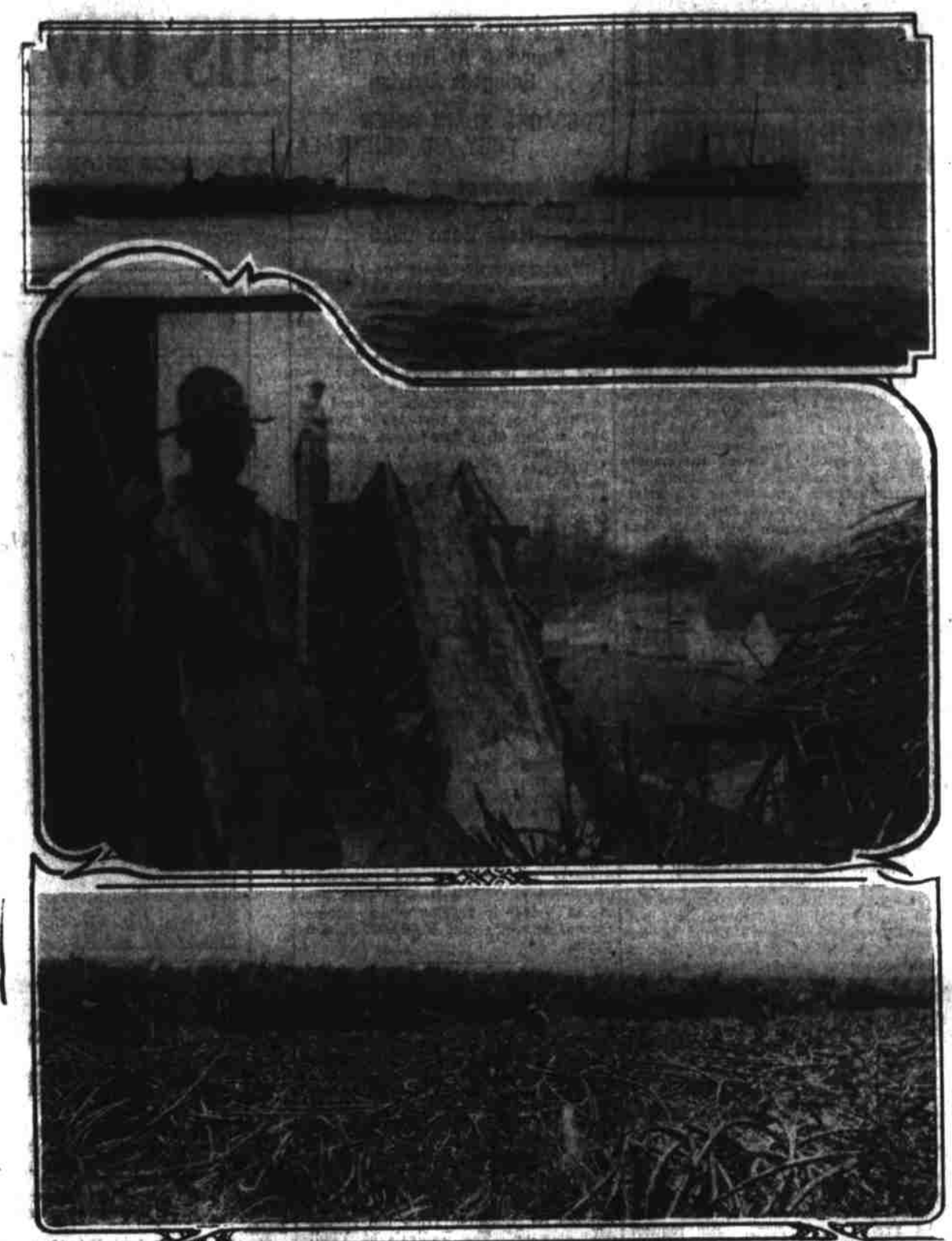
### PERUVIAN SUGAR

Peru reports that 4½ tons of sugar were raised from one acre of cane and that 276,000 metric tons are to the credit of the republic for the year 1918, while in 1915 it was only 262,840 tons. The average polarization of white sugar was 99.1 percent, granulated 96.8 percent, and muscovado 88 percent. The amount of sugar consumed at home was 36,989 tons and the exports were 239,010 tons in 1916. In 1915 the exports amounted to 280,357 tons.

### COLDS CAUSE HEADACHES

LAXATIVE BROMO QUININE removes the cause. Used the world over to cure a cold in one day. The signature of E. W. GROVE is on each box. Manufactured by the PARIS MEDICINE CO., St. Louis, U. S. A.

THREE phases of the production and marketing of Hawaiian sugar. The lower picture shows the cutting of the cane in the field. The middle picture shows the arrival of the cane at the mill by way of a cane flume and the upper picture shows the loading of the bagged raw product aboard an Inter-Island steamer to go to the warehouse where it will await for transpacific shipment.



## SUGAR MOVEMENTS IN SIX WEEKS LARGE

Movement of Sixty Thousand Tons Fails To Reduce Stock Waiting in Storehouses

Sugar movements since the first of March have been more than ordinarily rapid and this despite the shortage of regularly running freighters between here and the mainland.

In the past six weeks there has been shipped from the islands 61,229 tons of sugar, a faster movement than occurred for the same period of last year. This movement has brought the shipments to date up to 141,918 tons as compared with 169,750 tons shipped to the first of April last year.

In addition to the sugar shipped there was awaiting shipment 47,106 tons on the first of April, now a little further increased so it is safe to assume that the grind thus far is close to 200,000 tons.

In spite of these figures there is more difference between the grind of this year and last year than appears for last year sugar was not moving as fast as desired and the shippers then complained that shipments were behind schedule and there was at that time, as now, a considerable accumulation in storehouses.

This month's figures in shipments are expected to fall far behind those of last month and it may be expected there will be accumulation of still larger quantities awaiting transportation when the figures are compiled for the shipping board the first of next month.

### POISON IN CANDY

Poison has been appearing in some candies handled in Utah and samples have been sent up for analysis. One sample had enough poison to kill two people. The authorities say that the aim of the poison is to arouse hysteria more than death and that it is a part of the German system of undermining the national morale of the people.

### MEXICO WANTS SUGAR

Mexico asks for 80,000 tons of sugar from the outside world. Vera Cruz is expected to produce 30,000. Mexico is still unsettled, the grounds of revolution have not yet settled and in the meanwhile the sugar situation is still stirred up by the centrifugal forces that separate and destroy.

## Prospects Bright In Louisiana For Splendid Yield

NEW ORLEANS, March 23.—The weather continues to be just as good as anybody could want and fine reports as to the conditions of the cane and other sugar district crops are being received from practically every sugar-producing section of the State. Planters report that they are way ahead of the season in planting corn and cane. The prospects for fine yields of cane in 1918 are bright. A little rain, however, would not hurt, although there is no present pressing need for moisture. If rain were had it would mean that the crops would be a little farther ahead of normal than they already are. Nothing but optimism prevails now throughout the sugar belt. It remains to be seen what the late spring and summer will bring to Louisiana's sugar parishes to help or to hinder the presently wonderful crop of sugar now in the ground. Napoleonville reports shows there this week, which greatly benefited the growing crop after the cool spell of last week. The Assumption acreage in corn has been greatly increased and prospects point to bumper crops of all kinds.

While talk of white sugar manufacture, or, rather, the manufacture of pratinette white granulated sugar continues to be one of the principal topics in the sugar district of Louisiana at this time there have been no new recruits to that list within the past few weeks. White sugar machinery interests report, however, that the inquiry is active for such equipment and that at least six of the largest houses in Louisiana are on the verge of signing contracts for such machinery.

### NEW SUGAR FACTORY

The corner-stone of the Toppenish sugar factory has been laid in Washington and that great state may yet become the corner-stone state for sugar production if all indications will come to a successful issue.

### SERVES THE WHOLE FAMILY.

The fame of Chamberlain's Cough Remedy is world wide. It is good for the deep seated cough of the adult or the croup and whooping cough of the children. The same bottle serves the whole family. For sale by all dealers, Benson, Smith & Co., agents for Hawaii.—Advt.

## CALL IS ISSUED FOR HACKFELD MEETING

Reorganization Not Likely To Be Permanent

Official notice of the meeting of the stockholders of H. Hackfeld & Company, Ltd., is now being published. As heretofore reported this meeting, called for the purpose of reorganization to meet the plans of the custodian of enemy alien property, will be held on April 20 and in accordance with the plans already laid down and published.

From the information which comes to the islands in letters and from those returning from Washington, it does not seem likely that the reorganization will be in any way a permanent one. Instead, according to expressed expectations, the enemy alien stock in the company will be sold to the highest bidder, providing such bidder is considered by the government to be a satisfactory purchaser. Under the proposed laws and regulations, the government may throw out bids where in its opinion there exists good reasons to do so.

Following the reorganization of H. Hackfeld & Company, Ltd., by the election of a board of directors, the work of completing the directorates of the subsidiary companies, or the companies for which H. Hackfeld & Company is agent, can go on. There were several such companies which have left directorates open, companies which had a considerable part of their stock in the hands of enemy aliens.

### PIONEER EMPLOYEES

### SUBSCRIBE FOR BONDS

Pioneer Mill Co. employees in the first two days of the third Liberty Loan campaign have subscribed to \$13,050 worth of bonds. The sum is expected to be augmented considerably before the campaign closes. Reports received at Hackfeld & Co. today show that the Lahaina district contributed \$8700 and Kapaemahi \$4350.

Among the leading subscriptions are those of Ernest Brecht and T. Kubo, Japanese, for \$1000 each. Frank Stark,

## FOOD ADMINISTRATION IS LIKELY TO ALLOW HIGHER PRICE FOR RAW SUGARS

Plans For Handling Next Crop Already in Making and Justice of Growers' Claims is Winning Recognition Averse As Is the Administration To Increasing Cost of Living

NEW YORK, March 23.—With the conclusion of arrangements governing the purchase and distribution of the current sugar crop it is evident that the members of the sugar division of the food administration feel that the most important part of their task in relation to the 1917-1918 sugar season has been completed, said a special dispatch to Facts About Sugar received from Washington yesterday. There are plenty of matters to keep the staff fully occupied still, but they are mainly of a routine administrative nature.

Attention is now being directed to the completion of arrangements for dealing with the sugar situation during the coming year, as it is realized that with the prolongation of the war the necessity for regulating the price and movement of sugar will continue. Two important conferences bearing upon this matter are to be held within the next two weeks.

The first of these is the annual meeting of the United States Sugar Manufacturers' Association which is to be held at the Congress Hotel, Chicago, on March 28, 29 and 30. It is understood that George M. Rolph, chief of the sugar division of the food administration, will return from California in time to attend this meeting and that the matter of an agreement as to the price at which beet sugar is to be sold during the coming year will be taken under consideration.

### Action May Be Deferred

It is not at all certain that any definite agreement covering this matter will be reached at this time. There is a very general feeling among the beet sugar producers that the agreement entered into last September has not worked out equitably in all respects and that certain changes and modifications in its provisions governing distribution are necessary. On the question of price it is generally recognized that the very rapid advance in cost of production has become a controlling factor in the situation and that a readjustment of the price basis will be necessary if a serious decline in the domestic production of sugar is to be avoided. It is

argued by the sugar men that a margin of profit of a cent a pound is as small as they can operate on and continue to earn any sort of satisfactory return on their investment. At the existing price level of 7.45 cents, according to those who have followed this situation closely, the largest and best located companies will have less than half this margin during the coming season, while some of the weaker companies will be compelled to go out of business or to appeal to the government to take over their plants. The high prices of beet, labor and materials of all kinds have made it impossible to continue the present basis, they assert.

### Justice Recognized

While the food administration is naturally averse to increasing prices at this time, when the cost of living is steadily mounting, it is realized that there is justice in the contentions of the sugar producers. It is believed that the food administrator will be inclined to agree to some measure of relief if it can be worked out in such a way as not to interfere with the present balance of prices. It is realized that sugar has not shared to any considerable extent in the general rapid advance of food commodity prices and that a moderate increase would not be burdensome to consumers. It might have a salutary effect in helping to restrain consumption, an important consideration in view of the continuing scarcity resulting from the slow progress of distribution. It is pointed out, moreover, that the objection which might ordinarily apply to an adjustment of prices based on the cost of production of less advantageously located companies, namely, that it would permit a few companies enjoying exceptionally favorable situations to make large profits, is without effect now, as under existing tax laws a large part of such profits as might be realized in a few exceptional cases would inure to the benefit of the government.

Another important conference will be held in New Orleans on April 5 when Mr. Rolph will meet State Food Administrator Parker and the members of the newly appointed Louisiana board of sugar control. The purpose of this meeting is to bring about an agreement on the matter of standards to govern the various grades of Louisiana sugar and the differentials that are to prevail as to these grades. This is a matter that led during the past season to considerable confusion and disturbance, which it is hoped to avoid during the coming year.

## IDEAS OF CASTLE WILL YET SURVIVE

Theory As To Central Mills Will Not Lack Supporters, It Is Expected

While J. B. Castle has passed away the ideas for which he stood in the sugar industry still live and are likely, in the end, to shape up much as he had expected they would for J. B. Castle was admittedly a man of long foresight. One of these pet ideas was the coming up as a result of home-stated agitation.

Mr. Castle was perhaps the first advocate in these islands of the idea of a central sugar company which would finance and furnish transportation for the smaller planter. Perhaps it was sooner than did others, that there would be a recurring and more insistent demand for the division of sugar lands, property of the Territory and leased to the sugar companies. He also recognized the need of legitimate home-staying in that connection, home-staying by a dependable class and not by mere speculators in the land.

Very likely there will be modifications of the theories Mr. Castle entertained before they shall become operative here. Undoubtedly there will have to be arrangements so that, under contract, the plantation centrals will furnish the cutters and some of the other labor and dictate the time when shipping and cutting shall be done, much along the line of the contracts of sugar beet factories with beet growers.

There appears little likelihood of any land legislation at this session of congress, according to George McK. McClellan in a letter to the chamber of commerce in which he suggested leaving the question of withdrawal to the President. Land legislation, however, will remain a question in Hawaii until different laws from those now existing shall have been made operative.

### EXTENSIVE DEVELOPMENT OF SUGAR LAND PLANNED

HOUSTON, Texas, March 18.—An extensive immigration and development campaign is being planned at Sugar Land, according to President W. T. Eldridge, of the Sugar Land Company. As a first step the company has secured the services of Harry Redan, for the past fourteen years associated with the Southern Pacific Railroad, as industrial and development agent. Mr. Redan assumed his new duties March 15.

Acting manager, took \$500 worth and Mrs. Kayagawa \$300. Dagny Zeltwitz, alien enemy, subscribed for \$50, while Max Weber, another German who was under fire last fall at Hilo, subscribed \$100.

## STORAGE PROBLEMS LOOM UP FOR CUBA

Big Supply On Hand Already and Receipts Continue In Excess of Shipments

HAVANA, March 23.—Heavy and widely distributed rains have fallen during the week, interrupting the harvest and somewhat checking the pace at which outturn of the crop has been proceeding. The rains have been welcome, however, in districts where the cane has suffered from the continuous dry weather of the past several weeks. Conditions are otherwise generally good. Receipts of sugar at ports for the week ending March 16 were 166,612 tons; exports were 91,550 tons; and stocks at the end of the week were 318,316 tons. Receipts decreased 13,295 tons and exports 33,092 tons from the week preceding, while stocks increased 75,921 tons.

### Storage Problem Becomes

The problem of storage and transportation continues to be one of great seriousness. The government is giving all the aid possible by controlling the use of cars and railroad lines, and is endeavoring to prevent discrimination, both in the forwarding of cane to the mills and in the movement of sugar towards the principal ports. It is understood that some relief to congested conditions at the smaller ports is in prospect through an increase in the number of Cuban coastwise traffic. This will allow movement of sugar from harbors which are at present congested to their utmost capacity. Several of these smaller ports, Sagua la Grande in particular, have appealed to the authorities for aid in their difficulties. It is stated from reliable sources that should there be genuine rains in the near future, considerable loss would result, owing to the large quantities of sugar which are stored at these ports without adequate protection.

### WORLD PRODUCTION

It is estimated that the sugar production in the world for the season 1917-18 will be 18,637,000 tons, about 760,000 tons shorter than it was last year. The beet sugar areas of Europe have been invaded by armies and that has constantly reduced the tonnage there so that at least 4,000,000 tons once available are now still in the trenches ready to leap forth when the military mogul has been subdued. It is true that the West Indies, the Far East country and South America are stepping up the production, and yet there will be a perceptible shortage. A number of exchanges intimate that the transportation problem will be foremost and if that is solved the distribution will be facilitated. As the situation now stands, it will be impossible to feed the world.